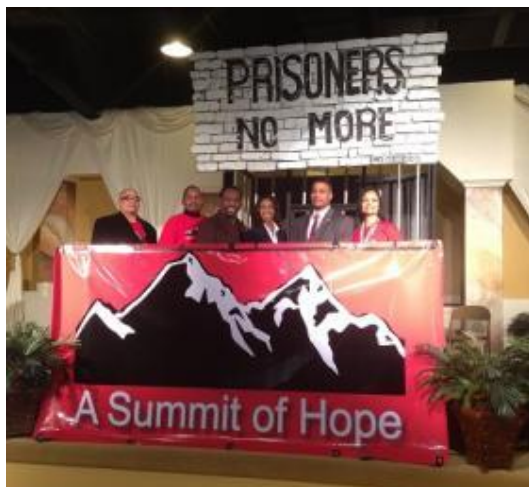




Corrections Department Hosts Expo For Ex-offenders

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The Illinois Department of Corrections will hold an expo today in Rock Falls for ex-offenders and parolees.



Credit IDOC

Department spokesman Tom Shaer says "[The Summit of Hope](#)" is designed to reduce the rate of recidivism by helping people update their driver's licenses, find counseling services, and take part in health screenings.

"This gives them a good opportunity in one stop to put together the pieces of a productive life because a safe and productive parolee (ex-offender) is a safe impact on society." -Tom Shaer, Illinois Dept. of Corrections

The state holds scheduled eight such expos around Illinois this year. Ex-offenders are invited based on where they live.

(MORE)

"We have cut through a lot of the red tape and that's the entire goal of The Summit of Hope, that's to bring the services to the ex-offenders so they can cherry pick what they need. They can fill out applications, they can get help filling out applications because it can be a daunting task. We also say 'Look, you have to take ownership of your life.'"

Shaer says between 400-900 participants attend the event at each location.